

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 1-16 and adds new claims 17 and 18. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1-18.

In the Office Action the Examiner objected to the specification as allegedly not being checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. The specification was reviewed so as to uncover any errors grammatical and editorial in nature. No such errors were uncovered. The Examiner's cooperation is respectfully requested to identify any errors the Examiner may be aware of so that such errors may be immediately corrected to expedite prosecution of the present application.

Claims 6, 8, 9, 11-13, 15 and 16 stand objected to due to informalities noted by the Examiner. Particularly, the Examiner alleges that the claims contain improper idiomatic English. Various amendments were made throughout claims 6, 8, 9, 11-13, 15 and 16 to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner particularly the improper idiomatic English. Therefore, this objection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Figs. 17 and 18 stand objected to as not being designated by a legend such as "Prior Art". Filed on even date herewith are Proposed Drawing Corrections adding the legend "Prior Art" to Figs. 17 and 18. Therefore, this objection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

The Examiner also objected to the drawings as allegedly using the reference numeral 3 to designate both the configuration table and the management table. Applicants traverse this objection being that as clearly illustrated, for example, in Fig.

2 the cache management table is designated by the reference numeral 31 and the departure configuration table is designated by the reference numeral 32. Therefore, different reference numerals have been used for the configuration table and the management table. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Applicants note that the Examiner did not consider the February 20, 2001 Information Disclosure Statement filed along with the application. A copy of the February 20, 2001 Information Disclosure Statement is attached. Consideration of such Information Disclosure Statement is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regards as the invention. Various amendments were made throughout claims 1-16 to bring them into conformity with the requirements of 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Therefore, Applicants submit that this rejection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Specifically, amendments were made throughout claims 1-16 to overcome the objections noted by the Examiner in the Office Action. The Examiner's cooperation is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' Attorney by telephone should any further indefinite matters be discovered so that appropriate amendments may be made.

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Dewey (U.S. Patent No. 5,724,501). This rejection is traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that the features of the present invention as now recited

in claims 1-16 are not taught or suggested by Dewey whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Amendments were made to claims 1-16 so as to more clearly describe features of the present invention not taught or suggested by the references of record. Particularly, amendments were made to claims 1-16 so as to more clearly describe that the present invention provides a disk controller in a disk subsystem having plural disk controllers, communication means between the disk controllers, disk drives and each disk interface between the disk controller and a disk drive wherein the disk controller is provided with a cache memory and a control memory that stores control information of the cache memory.

According to the present invention, the cache memory provided to one of the disk controllers that receives an access request from a host computer can be accessed and store data for the disk drive connected to the disk controller via the disk interface and data for the disk drive connected to another disk controller via the communication means.

Unique according to the present invention is that each of the disk controllers control each disk drive which is connected to another disk controller via a disk interface.

By use of the above described configuration of the of the present invention it is possible to share cache data between the plural disk controllers in order to control each disk drive independently and to improve the accessibility of the disk drives from

host computers. The Examiner's attention is directed to the description of this feature on page 25, lines 17-27 of the present application.

The above described features of the present application are not taught or suggested by Dewey whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record. Dewey teaches a method for allowing a host computer to access data from a first storage controller by issuing a request to a second storage controller also having a cache memory and a method for recovering data from a cache memory of a second storage controller by access to a cache memory of a first storage controller. The Examiner's attention is directed to col. 12, lines 35-38 and the Abstract of Dewey.

Dewey teaches that a disk controller controls disk drives using a single processor such as, for example, local processor 15 as illustrated in Fig. 1 thereof. However, Dewey does not teach or suggest that plural disk controllers can be provided wherein each disk controller can control each disk drive independently, for example, as described on page 10, line 22 through page 11, line 7 of the present application.

Further, Dewey does not teach or suggest the configuration of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims which enables the sharing of cache data between plural independently controlled disk controllers. Thus, in Dewey there is no possibility of improving the accessibility of the plural independent disk controllers as in the present invention.

Therefore, Dewey fails to teach or suggest various features of the present invention, for example, wherein the cache memory provided to the disk controller

which receives an access request from a host computer can be accessed and can store data for the disk drive connected to the disk controller via the disk interface and in addition can access and store data for a disk drive connected to another disk controller via the communication means as now more clearly recited in the claims.

Based on the above, it is clear that the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by Dewey whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC §102(b) rejection of claims 1-16 as being anticipated by Dewey is respectfully requested.

As indicated above, the present Amendment adds new claims 17 and 18. New claims 17 and 18 are each dependent from claim 3 and therefore recites many of the same features shown above not to be taught or suggested by Dewey. Therefore, the same arguments presented above with respect to claims 1-16 apply as well to new claims 17 and 18.

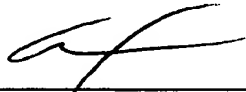
The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the reference utilized in the rejection of claims 1-16.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1-18 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 1-18 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (520.39648X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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